PROGRAM FOR TRAINING AND PROMOTION OF LIF LIPIZZAN JUDGES

Article 1

This Program sets the guidelines and rules for training and promotion of Lipizzan judges in the association Lipizzan International Federation (LIF).

Article 2

Roles and Responsibilities

(1) The LIF Board is responsible for overall implementation and administration of the Program for Training and Promotion of LIF Lipizzan Judges (Program or Judges Program). This will include:

1. Making publicly available a list of judges (as identified in Article 3).
2. Ensuring candidates have access to personal program guidance and supervised judging opportunities.

(2) LIF**, LIF*** and LIF**** Judges (LIF Judges) are responsible for following the Judges Program with goodwill and integrity. LIF Judges shall hold the international health and welfare of the Lipizzan Breed paramount, they shall commit to ongoing education, and always act in a professional manner when representing themselves as an LIF Judge.

(3) LIF Judge Examiners are responsible for:

1. Developing and administrating the LIF Basic and Advanced Clinics.
2. Developing and administrating the Judges Exam.
3. Overseeing the review of candidate applications at each level.
4. Providing candidates clear guidance and action steps to develop their judging skills.
5. Acceptance / promotion of National Level Judges (*) to LIF** Judges.
6. Recommending to the LIF Board the promotion of LIF*** Probationers, and LIF*** Judges to the next level (LIF*** and LIF**** Judge status, respectively), when:
    a. The criteria are met to apply for the next level, and
    b. The Judge Examiners determine that the candidate's skill and experience match that of the next level.

(4) The LIF Breeding Committee is responsible for leading a review of the Judges Program every three years. The purpose of the review is to ensure an ongoing effective program of training and promoting judges.

1. Recommendations for modifications and/or updates will be provided to the LIF Board.
2. At the LIF Board's discretion, modifications and/or updates will be presented at the General Assembly for approval.

(5) LIF-member organizations are responsible for:

1. Implementation of their own National Judging Program.
2. Annual reporting (due December 31 each year) to inform LIF of:

a. Status of all judges under their authority.
b. Judging activities for the calendar year of all judges under their authority. The presence of the judge at each event must be confirmed in writing with the organizer of the event.

3. Recommendation of judge candidates to the LIF Judges Program.
4. Supporting judge candidates under their authority in meeting the criteria for promotion.

Article 3

Levels of Judges

(1) A National Level Judge (*) is recognized nationally by an LIF-member organization under their own authority and reported to LIF according to Article 2.

(2) An LIF** Judge is a National Level Judge who has met the criteria listed in Articles 6 and 7 and been accepted by the LIF Judge Examiners into the Training Program.

(3) An LIF*** Judge is an LIF International Judge who has met the criteria listed in Articles 4 and 8, has passed the Judges Exam (Article 9), has completed all probationary requirements (Article 10), and has been both recommended for promotion by the Judge Examiners and approved by the LIF Board (Article 11).

(4) An LIF**** Judge is an LIF International Judge who has met the criteria listed in Article 12 and approved by the LIF Board (Article 13).

Article 4

Basic Criteria for all LIF Judges

(1) All LIF Judges must be in good standing with an LIF-member organization that maintains full LIF member status. An LIF Judge is considered to be in good standing when he or she:

1. Has remained current on organization dues and payments, if applicable.
2. Has fulfilled all the requirements for membership or employment of the organization.
3. Has neither voluntarily withdrawn from membership/employment nor has been expelled or suspended from membership/employment after appropriate proceedings consistent with the provisions of the constitution or bylaws of such organization.

(2) The preference is always for an LIF Judge to work under the authority of an LIF-member organization. If there are extraordinary circumstances, a judge may request permission from the Judge Examiners to work directly under the authority of the LIF.

(3) In the case of associate/observer members of LIF, LIF judges under their authority are allowed to only be registered to LIF** judges status. Level of LIF*** and LIF**** judge status will be available after full LIF membership is obtained.

Article 5

Lipizzan Horse Judging Events

This section defines the terms pertaining to judged events used in this Program.

(1) An Evaluation is an event held for the purpose of evaluating Lipizzan breeding horses under the authority of an LIF-member organization, or the National Breeding Authority (as defined by European Legislation (EU) 1012/2016).

(2) A Show is an event that:

1. Has one or more breed classes with only Lipizzan horses, which are placed in a similar manner to an Evaluation.
2. That is organized by or held with permission from the authority of an LIF-member organization, or the National Breeding Authority (as defined by European Legislation).

(3) Evaluations which are organized as the same event in several continuous days or on different dates and places in the same year, are considered one event.

(4) An International Evaluation or Show is one that has Lipizzan horses from more than one country of residence.

(5) A Qualified Judging Event is any National or International Evaluation or Show (as permitted by Judge Level) that meets the criteria defined above, where a Lipizzan horse is defined as a LIF-recognized purebred of any age.

(6) Supervised Foreign Judging is an Event where judging:

1. At a Qualified Judging Event in a country outside of the judge's country of residence and outside of the country of the judge's Authorizing LIF-member organization, if not the same.
2. Is conducted under the supervision of an LIF*** or LIF**** Judge, by pre-arrangement.
3. Is performed by a candidate being:
    a. An official member of the judging committee, or
    b. A shadow judge. Shadow judging allows informal judging (scores don't count towards a horse's official results). The candidate should complete all normal judging activities with results being evaluated/discussed with the Supervising Judge.

Article 6

LIF** Judge Elgibility

This section describes the criteria to apply to become an LIF** Judge.

(1) For a minimum of three years, be a National Level Judge (*) with status and judging activities reported annually to LIF by the authorizing LIF-member organization. The start date of the three-year requirement will be the date LIF is informed of an individual's National Level Judge (*) status by the LIF-member organization. *In the case where national authorization of judges doesn't exist, the Judge Examiners may be petitioned with documentation proving an equivalent level of judging experience.*

(2) Have judged a minimum of 30 Lipizzan horses in total at Qualified Judging Events in three continuous years. The judge's authorizing LIF-member organization will submit documentation confirming the candidate's judging activities at the time of annual reporting (see Article 2).

(3) Have attended at least two LIF Advanced Judges Clinics in the previous three years.

(4) A candidate may apply for a Professional Exemption from the Judge Examiners. A Professional Exemption requires demonstrated proficiency with judging horse conformation and movement. At their discretion, the Judge Examiners may include a practical exam at a Judges Clinic prior to making a decision. There are two types of Professional Exemptions, each with the following criteria to be eligible for LIF** status:

1. Professional Exemption (Lipizzan). This is an individual with demonstrated professional experience judging Lipizzans at an LIF** level. Attendance at only one LIF Advanced Judges Clinics in previous three years is required.
2. Professional Exemption (General). This is an individual with demonstrated professional experience judging non-Lipizzan horses:
    a. Have judged Lipizzan horses at two National Qualified Judging events in the previous three years, and
    b. Attendance on only one LIF Advanced Judges Clinics in previous three years is required.

(5) Submit an application (using forms provided by LIF) to include:

1. Letter from the Authorizing LIF-member organization recommending the candidate as an LIF** Judge.
2. Letter from a qualified individual who has firsthand knowledge of the candidate's Lipizzan judging skills recommending the candidate as an LIF** Judge. Please note:
    a. The qualified individual should be knowledgeable of Lipizzan judging (for example, an LIF*** or LIF**** Judge and/or a national mentor or president of judging committee).
    b. Documentation shall be provided demonstrating that the qualified individual has firsthand knowledge of the candidates Lipizzan judging skills.

Article 7

LIF Judges: Acceptance and Authority**

(1) Once a candidate meets all of the requirements of Article 6, their application will be submitted to the Judge Examiners for review. Within 60 days, the Judge Examiners will provide to the Authorizing LIF-member organization either:

1. A letter of acceptance of candidate and recognition of LIF** Judge Status, or
2. A letter of non-acceptance of candidate with recommend actions prior to re-application.

(2) Recognized LIF** Judges are entitled to:

1. Judge Lipizzan horses at National Evaluations or Shows.
2. Conduct Supervised Foreign Judging.

Article 8

Eligibility to Apply for LIF*** Judge Probationer Status

This section describes the criteria necessary to apply to begin the probation process to become an LIF*** Judge.

(1) Be an LIF** Judge in good standing for a minimum of three years.

(2) Speak English and/or German.

(3) Judge a minimum of 30 Lipizzan horses in total at Qualified Judging Events as an LIF** Judge in six continuous years, where at least 10 of the Lipizzan horses are judged at foreign Qualified Judging Events conducted under the supervision of a LIF*** or LIF**** Judge (Foreign Supervised Judging). The Authorizing LIF-member organization will submit documentation confirming the candidate's judging activities at the time of annual reporting (see Article 2).

(4) Have attended at least two LIF Advanced Judges Clinics as an LIF** Judge in the previous six years.

(5) Submit an application (using forms provided by LIF) to include:

1. Letter from the Authorizing LIF-member organization recommending the candidate to LIF*** Judge Probation Status.
2. Letter from an LIF*** or LIF**** Judge who has firsthand knowledge of the candidate's Lipizzan judging skills recommending the candidate to LIF*** Judge Probation Status.

(6) The application has to be submitted to LIF at least 90 days before the date of the Judges Exam. If the date is publicly announced less than 90 days prior to the exam, the application must be submitted at least 30 days before the date of the Judges Exam.

Article 9

Judges Exam

This section describes both the process and minimum requirements for the Judges Exam.

(1) Once a candidate meets all eligibility requirements of Article 8, their application will be submitted to the Judge Examiners for review. Within 60 days, the Judge Examiners will provide to the Authorizing LIF-member organization either:

1. A letter of invitation for the candidate to attend the next available Judges' Exam, or
2. A letter of non-acceptance of candidate with recommend actions prior to re-application.

(2) The LIF Judge Examiners have both the responsibility for and final authority over the development and administration of the Judges Exam. At a minimum, the Judges Exam:

1. Will be organized every second year, unless no candidates have been invited.
2. Will be conducted in English or German.
3. Will test both theoretical and practical knowledge.
4. Will test candidate's basic knowledge in horsemanship, conformation, movement, breed type, animal welfare and language skills.

5. Be administered by two LIF Judge Examiners, representing two different LIF-member organization (may not be from the same country).

(3) The candidate is responsible for paying all of his/her expenses (transportation, hotel, food and drinks, etc.) and a fee for the Judges Exam.

(4) After the candidate takes the Judges' Exam, within 60 days, the Judge Examiners will provide to the Authorizing LIF-member organization either:

1. A letter of acceptance to LIF*** Judge Probationer status, or
2. A letter advising candidate on areas of insufficient knowledge with recommend and prerequisite actions prior to being allowed to retake the Judges Exam.

Article 10

LIF* Judge Probation**

The purpose of LIF*** Judge Probation is to have the candidate gain judging experience and knowledge of the collective Lipizzan breed through Supervised Foreign Judging.

1. A Supervising Judge can be any LIF*** or LIF**** Judge.
2. After each Supervised Foreign Judging event, the Supervising Judge will submit a Letter of Assessment of the candidate's strengths and weakness to the Judge Examiners and indicate yes or no if the candidate's judging skills are at least equivalent to the LIF*** Judge Level.
3. When the candidate:
    a. Has judged a minimum of 30 Lipizzan horses at Supervised Foreign Judging Events, and
    b. Has received two Letters of Assessment indicating the candidate's judging skills are at least equivalent to the LIF*** Judge Level, received from two different Supervising Judges one of which is an LIF**** Judge, the Judge Examiners, at their discretion, may recommend to the LIF Board that the candidate be considered for LIF*** status.

Article 11

LIF* Judges: Acceptance and Authority**

(1) Once a candidate meets the conditions of Article 10, the Judge Examiners, at their discretion, may either:

1. Recommend to the LIF Board promotion of the candidate to LIF*** Judge status, or
2. Provide a letter to the LIF Board explaining reasons promotion is not being recommended at this time, with recommended action steps for the probationer to develop their judging skills to an LIF*** Judge Status.

(2) The LIF Board, based on a majority vote, may either:

1. Approve the candidate's LIF*** Judge status, or
2. Provide the Judge Examiners with a letter of required actions pertaining to the candidate.

(4) LIF*** Judge may judge any level of National or International Event and are particularly encouraged to judge internationally to continue to gain breed knowledge.

Article 12

Elgibility to Apply for LIF** Judge Status**

This section describes the criteria to apply to become an LIF**** Judge. *The Judge Examiners and LIF Board should strongly consider promoting only those candidates who have substantial experience and of knowledge judging Lipizzan horses internationally.*

(1) Be an LIF*** Judge in good standing for a minimum of five years.

(2) Speak English and/or German.

(3) Judge a minimum of 40 Lipizzan horses in total at foreign Qualified Judging Events as an LIF*** Judge in six continuous years. The Authorizing LIF-member organization will submit documentation confirming the candidate's judging activities at the time of annual reporting (see Article 2).

(4) Have attended at least two LIF Advanced Judges Clinics in the previous five years.

(5) Submit an application (using forms provided by LIF) to include a letter from the Authorizing LIF-member organization recommending the candidate to LIF**** Judge status.

Article 13

LIF** Judges: Acceptance and Authority**

(1) Once a candidate meets the conditions of Article 12, the Judge Examiners, at their discretion, may either:

1. Recommend to the LIF Board promotion of the candidate to LIF**** Judge status, or
2. Provide a letter to the LIF Board explaining reasons promotion is not being recommended at this time, with recommended action steps for the probationer to develop their judging skills to an LIF**** Judge level.

(2) The LIF Board, based on a majority vote, may either:

1. Approve the candidate's LIF**** Judge status, or
2. Provide the Judge Examiners with a letter of required actions pertaining to the candidate.

(4) An LIF**** Judge may judge any Evaluation or Show.

(5) An LIF**** Judge has a duty to perform Supervised Foreign Judging for candidates and submit all requested paperwork to LIF.

(6) An LIF**** Judge is qualified to be an Instructor at the LIF Judges Clinics.

Article 14

Status of Existing LIF Judges and Process of Appeal

This section describes the process for aligning existing LIF Judges (Judges previously approved by the LIF General Assembly as International Judges) with this Program.

(1) All existing LIF international Judges, who have attended an LIF Judges Clinic in the last five years, automatically qualify as LIF** Judges.

(2) All LIF international Judges who speak English and/or German will be considered for LIF*** Probationer, LIF*** or LIF**** status based on the number horses judged at Qualified Judging Events and LIF Judges Clinics.

1. To be an LIF**** Judge requires either of the following:
    a. Judged 50 Lipizzan horses at foreign Qualifying Judging Events and attended three Advanced LIF Judges Clinic, and/or
    b. Been an LIF Instructor at three LIF Judges Clinic.
2. To be an LIF*** Judge requires having judged 30 Lipizzan horses at foreign Qualifying Judging Events and attended three Advanced LIF Judges Clinic.
3. To be an LIF*** Probationer requires either of the following:
    a. Judged 20 Lipizzan horses at foreign Qualifying Judging Events and attended three LIF Judges Clinics, and/or
    b. Judged 50 Lipizzan horses at National Qualifying Judging Events and attended three LIF Judges Clinics.

(3) Attachment A to this Program aligns existing LIF Judges based on the criteria above and the information currently on file for the LIF Judge with the LIF.

(4) The Authorizing LIF-member organization has until December 31st, 2023, to submit a Letter of Appeal with information demonstrating an LIF Judge qualifies for a higher level based on the criteria of this Program, or upon equivalent experience.

(5) Upon receipt of the Letter of Appeal, the LIF Board will evaluate the information provided against the criteria of this Program and within 60 days provide a letter to the Authorizing LIF-member organization indicating that:

1. The candidate is approved at a new judge level (as decided by the LIF Board), or
2. The appeal is denied, with an explanation of the criteria not met.

Article 15

Status of Existing National Level Judges

This section describes the process for aligning existing National Level Judges with this Program.

(1) All judges currently reported by an Authorizing LIF-member organization as national level judges, will be immediately recognized as a National Level Judge (*). LIF** eligibility will be based on the date the judge was first reported by the Authorizing LIF-member organization, including Qualified Judging Events and LIF Clinics attended since the date of first reporting according to Article 6.

(2) The Authorizing LIF-member organization has until 31st December 2022, to report any previously unreported Qualified Judging Events.

Article 16

Requirements for Maintaining Judge Status

This section describes the on-going requirements for judges (Article 2) to maintain their status under this Program.

(1) The Authorizing LIF-member organization by 31st December each year must:

1. Report candidates Qualified Judging Events for the previous calendar year.
2. Confirm the judge is still authorized by the LIF-member organization.
3. If no Authorizing LIF-member organization, judge to report as directed by LIF.

(2) Attendance of an LIF Advanced Judges Clinic a minimum of one time in every 5 years is required for all LIF**, LIF*** Probationer, and LIF*** Judges.

(3) Minimum Qualified Judging Events are required as follows:

1. LIF** Judges must judge a minimum of 20 Lipizzan horses in total at Qualified Judging Events once every 5 years.
2. LIF*** Probationers must judge a minimum of 20 Lipizzan horses in total at Supervised Foreign Judging Events every 5 years.
3. LIF*** and LIF**** Judges must judge a minimum of 20 Lipizzan horses in total at Qualified Judging Events every 5 years.

Article 17

Loss of LIF Judge Status, Exceptions and Process for Reinstatement

This section describes how a judge may lose their LIF Judge status, exceptions and process for reinstatement.

(1) Any LIF Judge who does not meet the requirements listed in Article 16 will have their LIF Judge status immediately revoked. *This will not affect their National Judge Level if authorized by an LIF-*member organization.

(2) Any LIF Judge with extenuating circumstances may apply for Inactive Status for a period of up to three years, providing a reasonable reason for the request (for example health, job requirements, family, etc.). The LIF Board, at their discretion, will decide if Inactive Status is granted. An LIF Judge with Inactive Status may not perform judging as an LIF Judge. If Inactive Status is granted, the requirements of Article 16 will be frozen for the length of the Inactive Status.

(3) Any individual who has their LIF Judge status revoked, may:

1. Petition the LIF Board, within 6 months of their status being revoked, for reinstatement to their former level providing evidence of extenuating circumstances.

2. Petition the Judge Examiners, at any time after their status has been revoked, for reinstatement as an LIF Judge. The Judge Examiners will, at their discretion, provide a letter that:
    a. Describes criteria for reinstatement that aligns with this Program, and
    b. Choose at what level the judge will be reinstated after the criteria is met.

Article 18

Suspension of LIF Judge Status

(1) An LIF Judge may have their status suspended, by a majority vote of the LIF Board, for any of the following.

1. Not following any part of these rules, including the responsibilities for LIF Judges listed in Article 2.
2. Not following any other LIF rules.
3. Not following decisions made by Judge Examiners or the LIF Board.

(2) The LIF Board will provide the terms of the suspension on an individual basis.

Article 19

Loss of LIF Judge Status through Expulsion

(1) An LIF Judge may be expelled, by a majority vote of the LIF Board, for any of the following:

1. Any of the items listed in Article 18.
2. Unacceptable or corruptible behavior as determined by the LIF Board. For example, any criminal or abusive actions (physical or emotional) towards horses or humans. A judge should at all times be honest and trustworthy.

(2) Expulsion is final. An individual who has been expelled is not allowed to be an LIF Judge after expulsion.

Article 20

Selection and Service of Judges Examiners

This section describes the process by which Judge Examiners are selected and will serve.

(1) Upon approval of this Program by the General Assembly, all LIF**** Judges identified in Attachment A will be named Judge Examiners, unless they choose not to serve in this position.

(2) Judge Examiners serve at the discretion of the LIF Board.

1. By a majority vote, the LIF Board can install any LIF**** Judge as a Judge Examiner.
2. A Judge Examiners term is five years. The number of terms an individual may serve as a Judge Examiner is not set.

3. By a majority vote, the LIF Board can remove a Judge Examiner who no longer wishes to serve in this position, or who is no longer actively fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of a Judge Examiner.

(3) The number of Judge Examiners is not set. The number of Judge Examiners will be determined by the LIF Board.

Article 21

LIF Basic and Advanced Judges Clinics

This section describes LIF Judges Clinics, their purpose, and associated authorities.

(1) The LIF Judge Examiners have both the responsibility for and final authority over all LIF Judges Clinics, including the teaching material and the manner of teaching.

(2) LIF Judges Clinics will have three levels:

1. LIF Lipizzan Breed and Judges Basic Level Clinic (BLC)
    a. The purpose of the BLC is to educate Lipizzan breeders, National (*) Judges and Lipizzan enthusiasts on LIF Lipizzan breed standards, including a general overview of all aspects of Lipizzan horse evaluation.
    b. The BLC will be a minimum of one day.
    c. The BLC will be conducted by a minimum of one Judge Examiner or LIF**** Judge.
    d. The BLC may be held in any country at any time.
2. LIF Judges Advanced Level Clinics – Level One (ALC-1) and Level Two (ALC-2)
    a. The purpose of ALC-1 and ALC-2 is to develop, educate and bring LIF Judges up the LIF Judges Levels, as well as provide continuing education for all LIF Judges.
    b. Both ALC-1 and ALC-2 will be a minimum of two days.
    c. Both ALC-1 and ALC-2 will be conducted by a minimum of two Judge Examiners.
    d. Judge Examiners may select experts from different fields of horse breeding and training to be lecturers.
    e. Lecturing at an ALC for LIF*** or **** Judges satisfies the requirement of Article 16 for attendance at an LIF Advanced Judges Clinic.
    f. Attendance will be based on current Judge Level:
        i. ALC-1 is for LIF** Judges. Judge Examiners will focus education to support candidates with passing the Judges Exam. *National (*) Judges with the intention of becoming LIF** Judges may attend if their LIF*-member organization *provides a letter of recommendation (required)*.
        ii. ALC-2 is for LIF*** Probationers, LIF*** and LIF**** Judges. Judge Examiners will focus education on the development of International Judges.

Article 22

Public Information Notification and Process to Opt In to Judges Lists

This section describes the information LIF intends to make publicly available on Judges Lists, and the process for a judge to have their information included.

(1) LIF intends to maintain and make available to the public two lists of judges:

1. National Level Judges (*), and
2. LIF Judges (LIF**, LIF*** Probationer, LIF*** and LIF****).

(2) Each list will contain the following information for each judge:

1. Name.
2. Country of residence.
3. Authorizing LIF-member organization.
4. Contact details.
5. Languages spoken.
6. Other professional qualifications.
7. Additionally, for LIF Judges only:
    a. The LIF Judge status (LIF**, LIF*** Probationer, LIF*** and LIF****).
    b. Judging experience (updated every year).

(3) EU GDPR requires consent to be opt-in. To be included on either of the public Judges Lists, each judge must 'opt-in' and give consent for the information detailed above to be made publicly available. Each judge must complete and submit a Judges List Opt-In Consent Form, as provided by LIF, before being added to the public lists.

Article 23

Other provisions

(1) LIF has the right to change the Program if it seems appropriate or necessary, applying to all listed judges/candidates.

(2) LIF has the right to make publicly available judge's information as described in Article 24.

(3) LIF has the right to check judging experience information sent or confirmed by LIF-member organization.

(4) Each judge is responsible for notify his LIF-member organization about updates to his judging experience together with reliable proof of judging.

(5) Any situation not expressly defined is to be considered by the Judge Examiners.